

Art Unit: 1715

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 18, 2010 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Amendment filed on July 19, 2010 has been entered. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 7, are withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims examined on the merits are 1, 3-6, and 9-17.

Specification

The request to introduce CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS into the specification has been withdrawn.

The amendment to the specification filed on July 19, 2010 has been entered.

BIB DATA SHEET

The BIB DATA SHEET has been corrected to introduce a new title "A METHOD OF MAKING AN INDUSTRIAL FABRIC".

Art Unit: 1715

Oath/Declaration

1. The oath or declaration filed on January 26, 2007 is defective because Applicant has not complied with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.63(c), since the oath, declaration or application data sheet does not acknowledge the filing of any foreign application. Applicant is required to file an **application data sheet** (ADS) acknowledging the filing of the foreign application GB 0306502.6.

2. The oath or declaration filed on September 20, 2005 is also defective because it places PCT/EP2004/050324 under “Foreign Priority” documents.

EXAMINER’S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner’s amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner’s amendment was given in a telephone interview with Max W. Garwood on May 12, 2011.

Claim 1: “A method of making an industrial fabric comprising the following steps : - applying a radiation-curable powder onto the surface of a fabric, - melting the powder such that the powder forms a coating layer on the fabric surface, wherein said coating layer is a porous layer, said porous coating layer being formed by first wetting the surface of said fabric with a liquid before subsequently applying the powder onto said surface of said fabric and drying off said liquid in said melting step to form pin holes in said coating layer, - directing radiation at said coating layer so as to cure the constituent material of said coating layer; and preheating said

Art Unit: 1715

fabric to aid said powder application by enabling said powder to stick to said fabric.” has been changed to

“A method of making an industrial fabric comprising the following steps:

wetting a surface of the industrial fabric with a liquid;

[[~~-~~]]applying a radiation-curable powder onto the surface of ~~[[a]]the~~ fabric after
said melting step;[[~~-~~]]

melting the powder such that the powder forms a coating layer on the fabric surface; ~~wherein said coating layer is a porous layer, said porous coating layer being formed by first wetting the surface of said fabric with a liquid before subsequently applying the powder onto said surface of said fabric and~~

drying off said liquid in said melting step to form pin holes in said coating layer
thereby forming a porous coating layer; and[[~~-~~]]

directing radiation at said coating layer so as to cure the constituent material of said coating layer;~~and preheating said fabric to aid said powder application by enabling said powder to stick to said fabric.”~~

Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled.

Claim 13, lines 2-3: “wherein the at least one initiator is one of 1-Hydroxy cyclohexyl phenyl ketone (HCPK), or hydroxy ketone (AHK) and bisacyl phoshine oxide (BAPO).” has been changed to “wherein the at least one initiator is one of 1-Hydroxy cyclohexyl phenyl ketone (HCPK), ~~[[or]]~~ hydroxy ketone (AHK) and bisacyl phoshine oxide (BAPO).”

Art Unit: 1715

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Rejection of claims 1, 3-6, and 9-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moens et al (WO03010248) in view of Biller et al (US 5824373) has been withdrawn due to amendment.

6. Rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moens et al '248 in view of Biller et al '373, as applied above, and further in view of Heintz (US 2300155) has been withdrawn due to amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1, 3-6, and 9-17 are allowed over prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 is allowed because the cited prior art of record does not teach or suggest steps of wetting a fabric surface with a liquid; applying UV curable powder onto the wet fabric surface, and melting the powder to form a coating film and drying off the liquid during the melting step to form pinholes in the coating film.

Claims 3-6, and 9-17 are allowed as further limiting claim 1.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 1715

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELENA Tsoy LIGHTFOOT whose telephone number is (571)272-1429. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Elena Tsoy Lightfoot, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1715

May 16, 2011

/Elena Tsoy Lightfoot/